



Northlake Area Plan

Sample Transportation Goals and Recommendations

Vision: *Northlake is a unique “edge city” location that shall be a livable, diverse, and sustainable community. It will seek to accommodate the needs of those in all stages of life while balancing pressure for new development with preservation of the historical, rural, and natural aspects of the community. This vision will be achieved through:*

- *A land use pattern that offers a balanced mixture of uses with high quality urban design*
- *Development of multi-modal transportation choices*
- *Planned and enhanced public services*
- *Integration of quality cultural amenities and economic and housing opportunities*
- *Preservation of the historic aspects of the community*
- *Environmental preservation*
- *Development of multiple open space and recreational opportunities*

Summary of Issues:

- Reduce congestion
- Increase connectivity
- Become more pedestrian and bicycle friendly
- Provide transportation choices (multi-modal transportation system)
- Accommodate growth with adequate transportation systems
- Improve traffic operations

I. Goal: Develop a transportation and land use approach that enables the transportation system to keep pace with Northlake area transportation needs.

Recommendations:

1. Develop policies that ensure facilities and services are provided concurrently with development.
2. Ensure compatibility and coordination with the transportation facilities of adjacent counties.
3. Improve access to activity centers such as schools, shopping areas, and parks.
4. Encourage and facilitate the coordination of intelligent transportation systems between jurisdictions.



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- II. Goal: Promote sensible growth patterns that increase transportation efficiency, reduce vehicle miles traveled, and promote transportation choices.**

Recommendations:

1. Encourage land use patterns that promote safe and convenient walking, bicycling, transit access, and reduced trip lengths.
2. Support new development requirements that contribute to pedestrian, bicycle, and transit amenities.
3. Connect new development to existing street stubs that extend to the development site and provide stub streets to adjacent properties that are undeveloped.

- III. Goal: Improve connectivity within the Northlake area to relieve traffic congestion and minimize travel time.**

Recommendations:

1. Reduce travel time, delays, and traffic hazards.
2. Create a grid system of streets that improves connectivity to and through the area.
3. Provide multiple vehicular entry points to residential developments to shorten trip distances, improve connectivity, and disperse traffic.
4. Provide connectivity by including direct vehicular, pedestrian, and bicycle connections between abutting or adjacent developments and neighborhood serving land uses.
5. Increase bicycle and pedestrian accommodations on all new or reconstructed roadways.



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IV. Goal: Provide a connected, safe, and walkable transportation system that offers transportation choices.

Recommendations:

1. Maximize bicycle and pedestrian access to roadways and transit facilities.
2. Develop a well-connected sidewalk system, which links residents to existing neighborhoods and to neighborhood serving land uses within the community.
3. Design streets considering pedestrian and bicycle safety and comfort.
4. Encourage sidewalk construction on both sides of the thoroughfare and local streets.
5. Implement the Northlake Area Bicycle Facilities Plans.
6. Encourage the Northlake area to develop connections to trails and open space for alternative travel and recreational opportunities.
7. Increase access to transit facilities.
8. Maintain motorist travel times.

V. Goal: Offer multiple transit choices and transit improvements throughout the Northlake community.

Recommendations:

1. **Maintain existing bus coverage in the Northlake area.** CATS shall continue to monitor transit demand and make appropriate adjustments to existing and future routes in order to adequately serve the Northlake Area consistent with CATS' adopted performance guidelines. More specifically, CATS shall work with Northlake residents to explore opportunities to expand existing bus coverage.



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2. **Involve Northlake area residents in the public involvement process of the CATS' Countywide Transit Services Plan and Rapid Transit Expansion.** Efforts should be made to involve Northlake area residents in the public involvement processes for the update of the CATS' Countywide Transit Services Plan and the study proposal for North Corridor Project.
3. **Create future transit service opportunities by incorporating transit stop infrastructure along the major and minor thoroughfares as development occurs.** CATS shall work closely with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Commission, Charlotte Department of Transportation, and other appropriate departments to provide comment on rezonings and major development plans which promote and encourage: the development of mixed-use and high density residential centers along strategic thoroughfares, improvements to pedestrian and bicycle connectivity, strategic thoroughfare and internal street enhancements to accommodate bus travel, and the incorporation or enhancement of transit stop infrastructure.
4. **Evaluate the suitability for future CATS investments in community transit center facilities and park and ride facilities within the Northlake community.** CATS shall aim to strategically incorporate community transit center and park and ride facilities into future mixed-use and high intensity residential centers within the study area where practical.
5. **Improve and provide safe and convenient access to future rapid transit stations for the Northlake community.** The advancement of the North Corridor Commuter Rail Project will require revisions to the existing public transit service. Transit service between bus and rapid transit modes will be coordinated with the implementation of the North Corridor Commuter Rail Project. Where practical, bus routes shall connect the Northlake community with rapid transit stations. Safe, pedestrian crossings will be carefully planned.